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Elementary Physical Geography. By WILLIAM MORRIS DAVIS, Sturgis Hooper Professor of Geology in Harvard University. 7½×5 in., pages xviii+402. 19 full page plates; 190 figures in the text; 8 uncolored maps appended, 1902. Boston: Ginn & Co.

Each one of the newer texts in physical geography has come under criticism from teachers or school boards, as being too difficult, and one by one they are recast in response to the clamor. Not that the principles or applications are more difficult than should be handled in the first year of the high schools, but because the teachers are deficient in training. But since it is a condition and not a theory that must first be met, it is doubtless wise to make some concessions. Professor Davis has had these conditions to meet, and in response we have this new edition of his *Physical Geography*, in which some difficulties have been eliminated and some rearrangement of matter made. The treatment of the atmosphere is ampler and decidedly more adequate, which will be very helpful to those teachers who have to treat the subject of meteorology as a mere topic in a year's work, or even a single term's work in physical geography.

A number of new illustrations have been added, mostly as insets in half tone, the quality of which, for the most part, is not up to the standard of the book. A number of insets of charts in color have been added, which increases materially the value of the work.

The first edition was criticised as not making enough of the human element. The criticism was not valid, as the subject of man's dependence upon his environment was treated in every chapter, and under every topic, and perhaps more suggestively than had ever before been done. But in this edition less attention is called to this phase of geography in the chapters as they go, and a new chapter is added in which this one point of view is dealt with in detail, and it is an excellent contribution.

In any treatment of latitude and longitude it would conduce to clear thinking if we could shape our language so that we should not carry the implication, as on page 9, that circles are lines and lines circles. It would be very easy to treat parallels as circles (plane figures), parallel with the equator, and it would then be simpler to teach latitude as angular distance, measured in the meridian (semicircle-plane figure). We could at the same time show how the usual manner of representation of these circles as lines on the map has given rise to their description as lines merely,

The new book, like its predecessor, will stand in the front rank of school texts.

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BOOKS RECEIVED.

Animal Activities, a first book in Zoölogy. By Nathaniel S. French, Roxbury High School. Size 5×7. Pp. 262. Price—. New York: Longmans, Green & Co.

We hope to publish a review of this book shortly. The subject of zoölogy is commanding greater attention in our secondary schools, and the quality of the text-books seems to be improving in answer to the demand.